

The Humuhumunukunukuapua'a

A few interesting facts...

- It's teeth are blue
- It has a small second spine
- When swimming away from predators, it can make a grunting noise
- It has a chubby mouth
- The Humuhumu can wedge itself in small crevices

Here is my report...

The Humuhumunukunukuapua'a is also known as the Lagoon trigger fish, black bar trigger fish, Picasso fish, or by it's scientific name *Rhinecanthus aculeatus*.

It has a diet of algae, mollusks, crustaceans, polychaete worms, coral, sea urchins, and heart urchins (Not all invertebrates included).

It lives in the shallow water just a bit past the coral reef. But the Humuhumu prefers protected shallow waters. They live in a temperature range of 65-78 degrees.

It is part of the Balistidae family which convinces many people that the fish is very ugly. Even the early Hawaiians thought it to be low esteem food, so they used it for fire wood to cook other fish. But when you take a look at the Humuhumunukunukuapua'a closer, it's beautiful and fascinating.

It's a fish that swims slower than most. That's why they have so many useful defense mechanisms from predators. For instance when the Humuhumu is attacked or frightened it swims to it's hole or nest in the coral below. Once it gets there the Humuhumu erects its first big dorsal fin which is locked in place with its second dorsal spine, or trigger. No predator can ever move the fin, and usually just leaves the Humuhumu alone. It is usually in a small crevice of coral when it swims into the coral.

It's a really fascinating fish. I learned a lot from all of the research. I hope that you liked this report, and will soon like this fish.